

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

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R 121254Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4793

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

CSAF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

S E C R E T TEHRAN 8779

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, AFSI, IR

SUBJECT: US TRAINING FOR THIRD COUNTRY PILOTS IN IRAN

REF: CARMISH MAAG 111335Z DEC 73 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: WE ENDORSE POSITIVE RESPONSE TO IIAF'S REQUEST FOR US INSTRUCTOR PILOT ASSISTANCE WITH JORDANIAN AND MOROCCAN AIR CREWS.

1. MAG REFTEL REPORTED LOW-LEVEL, INFORMAL APPROACH FROM IIAF FOR MAAG INSTRUCTOR PILOT ASSISTANCE IN CHECKING OUT SIX JORDANIAN PILOTS IN C-130 AIRCRAFT AND FIFTEEN JORDANIAN PILOTS IN F-5A, B AND E MODELS. SIMILAR REQUEST TO CHECK OUT FIVE MOROCCAN F-5 PILOTS IS ANTICIPATED. FINALLY, SOME TIME IN FUTURE WE MAY RECEIVE REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN TRAINING AIR CREWS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE FROM YEMEN. DESPITE LOW-KEY IRANIAN APPROACH, WE ARE CONFIDENT IT HAS AUTHORITATIVE BACKING.

2. WHILE WE RECOGNIZE THERE MAY BE NUMBER OF LEGAL/PROCEDURAL/

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FINANCIAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED, WE HOPE DOD CAN AUTHORIZE A POSITIVE REPOSENSE TO GOI REQUEST. FOR SEVERAL YEARS NOW,

WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGING IRAN TO TAKE ON GREATER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR REGIONAL SECURITY. ALTHOUGH IRANIAN FORCES HAVE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS ARISING FROM MILITARY MODERNIZATION EFFORTS, GOI LEADERSHIP HAS SHOWN CREDITABLE INITIATIVE IN USING ITS SCARCE MANPOWER TO ASSIST NEIGHBORING STATES. BY AUTHORIZING US ACK-STOPPING FOR IRANIAN FORCES ON DISCREET AND LIMITED BASIS, WE CAN ENABLE IRANIANS TO EXTEND AND STRENGTHEN THEIR REGIONAL ROLE. THERE IS CLEAR MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS IN THIS UNDERTAKING.

3. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE INSTRUCTOR PILOT ASSISTANCE RENDERED AS ADDITIONAL MAAG PART-TIME DUTY, IF THAT IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT AUGMENTING NUMBER OF PERSONNEL ASSIGNED HERE. IF EXPERIENCE PROVES THAT IS NOT FEASIBLE, THEN WE HOPE CONSIDERATION COULD BE GIVEN TO TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT OF INSTRUCTOR PILOTS TO ACCOMPLISH REQUESTED TASKS. ASSIGNMENT COULD PROBABLY BE HANDLED AS MTT WITH IRANIAN FUNDING. BUT IMPORTANT THING IS TO HELP IRANIANS THROUGH DIFFICULT EARLY STAGES OF REGIONAL AID WHEN THEY MAY OVERTAX THEIR RESOURCES.

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